

underscored material = new
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1 biodiversity within the state's ecosystems continues to
2 decrease and conditions for continued insect outbreaks remain
3 likely, thus adding to the possibility of catastrophic
4 wildfires occurring within the state; and

5 WHEREAS, catastrophic fires present a threat to the lives
6 and property of New Mexico residents; and

7 WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires could have devastating
8 impacts on the state's critical watersheds and negative impacts
9 on domestic water supply for New Mexico residents; and

10 WHEREAS, the magnitude of the forest health problem is in
11 terms of millions of acres and involves different
12 jurisdictional boundaries and authorities; and

13 WHEREAS, the cost to remedy and maintain sound forest
14 ecosystems within the state will be tremendous and all
15 available land management resources must be used both
16 efficiently and effectively; and

17 WHEREAS, the Mescalero Apache Tribe's forest management
18 operations, working in concert with the bureau of Indian
19 affairs, Mescalero agency, have become nationally known for the
20 effective and efficient way in which they have addressed many
21 of the forest health issues mentioned within;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the forestry division of the energy,
24 minerals and natural resources department be requested to
25 facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide

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1 forest health plan that will effectively bring together the
2 resources of federal agencies, tribal, state and local
3 governments and private landowners to address the issues
4 described herein; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the anticipated completion
6 date for the New Mexico forest health plan being October 2004,
7 that the state forester send the plan to the New Mexico
8 legislature by December 2004; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
11 resources, the state forester, the New Mexico congressional
12 delegation and the chief of the United States forest service.